



Docket No.: 216267US3 CONT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/988,721 ✓
Applicants: Ken HATTORI, et al.
Filing Date: November 20, 2001
For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, HOLDER CONTAINER,
DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD, AND
DEVICE MANUFACTURING UNIT
Group Art Unit: 2851
Examiner: MATHEWS, A.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

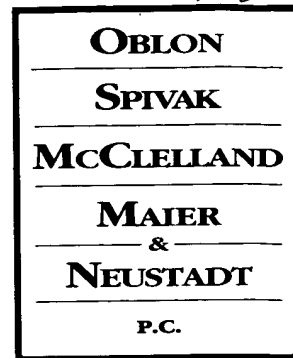
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Ken HATTORI, et al. : EXAMINER: MATHEWS, A.
SERIAL NO: 09/988,721 :
FILED: November 20, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2851
FOR: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, :
HOLDER CONTAINER, :
DEVICE MANUFACTURING :
METHOD, AND DEVICE :
MANUFACTURING UNIT :

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated July 17, 2003, the Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group II corresponding to Claims 15-22.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement based on MPEP § 803, which states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

Application Serial No.: 09/988,721
Reply to Office Action dated July 17, 2003

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-45 be conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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